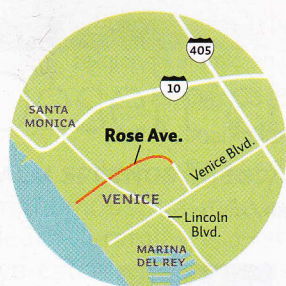


Rose Avenue, Venice

A once-seedy L.A. street is blooming.

Five years ago: Locals knew it as Skid Rose, with psychedelic-painted RVs parked for days and loitering characters. **And now?** Eco-friendly apartments and trendy shops and eats have moved in—like an edgier Abbot Kinney Boulevard. **Hot spot:** Between Google's Main Street offices to the west and Whole Foods on Lincoln Boulevard to the east. **The crowd:** Yogis, foodies, tech pros, artists. **How to get around:** Walk. Park in the garage of Archstone Venice (512 Rose Ave.), a new LEED Platinum, mixed-use development. Better yet, park your bike on the rack outside the Archstone. **Budget finds:** DNA Clothing (411 Rose; 310/399-0347) is half the price of stores like Fred Segal, and the tacos are tasty at La Fiesta Brava (423 Rose; 310/399-8005). —JENNY HONTZ



Rose Avenue is near the Santa Monica border and ends at the beach. Take I-10 west, exit at Lincoln Blvd., turn left on Lincoln, then right onto Rose.



A great-tasting good deed

New Year's resolutions are easy to keep at **Cafe Gratitude**, the newest location of the all-organic vegan cafe, which uses local produce in dishes whimsically named I Am Whole and I Am Dazzling. For good karma, order the I Am Grateful bowl with kale, quinoa, and black beans; proceeds go to charities for the homeless. \$; 512 Rose Ave.; 424/231-8000. >22